



Foreign Affairs Manual

7 FAM – Consular Affairs

Change Transmittal: CON-337

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7 FAM 1510 INTRODUCTION

7 FAM 1520 VOTING FORMS AND SUPPLIES

7 FAM 1530 VOTING ACTION PLAN

7 FAM 1540 BASIC ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS

7 FAM 1550 POST-ELECTION REPORTING

7 FAM 1560 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND THE OVERSEAS VOTING PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Changes

1. **7 FAM 1510, Introduction:**

- **7 FAM 1512, Authorities:** The legal authority for U.S. citizens abroad to vote absentee is also found in State election laws.
- **7 FAM 1513, Role of the Consular Officer Regarding Voting Assistance (bolded block):** All voting-related messages are sent to the appropriate votepost@state.gov address.
- **7 FAM 1514, Role of CA/OCS/ACS:** The Chief Voting Action Officer serves as a liaison between the Federal Voting Assistance Program and consular voting assistance officers.

2. **7 FAM 1520, Voting Forms and Supplies:**

- **7 FAM 1521, paragraph c:** Form SF-186-A, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB), is a back-up ballot that can be used by UOCAVA citizens in general elections for Federal offices under three very specific conditions. Parts of two of these conditions are: (1) "be a Uniformed Service member in the United States" and (2) apply for a regular ballot ". . . or by the State's deadline, whichever is later."

3. **7 FAM 1530, Voting Action Plan:**

- **7 FAM 1532, paragraph d:** You may reach the private U.S. community through "expatriate blogs" and "English-language newspapers and radio."

4. **7 FAM 1540, Basic Absentee Voting Process:**

- **7 FAM 1545, Online Federal Post Card Application (OFPCA):** Every U.S. State and most U.S. territories now permit the use of the online version of Form SF-76-A, Registration and Absentee Ballot Request - Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).
- **7 FAM 1547, paragraph c:** At this time, voting over the Internet is not an option for U.S. voters abroad.

5. **7 FAM 1550, Post-Election Reporting:**

- **7 FAM 1552, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Requirements:** The FVAP generally surveys six groups: U.S. local election officials; military voting assistance officers (VAOs); State Department VAOs; military personnel in the United States and abroad; Federal civilian employees abroad; and private Americans abroad.

6. **7 FAM 1560, Political Activities and the Overseas Voting Program Guidance:**

- **7 FAM 1562, paragraph e:** Posts abroad may **not** conduct polling or mock elections in relation to U.S. or foreign elections except for legitimate public diplomacy purposes whereby mock elections are held on post-sponsored election-night events at which only non-U.S. Government-employed foreign nationals may be allowed to vote.
7. **Change Transmittal** has replaced the term, Transmittal Letter. Change transmittal was selected as being more appropriate in this age of electronic information transmission. The FAM volume's transmittal acronym and numerical series remains in place.
 8. Later revisions will appear in *italic* and *dark magenta*. Italic and dark magenta provide a historical record of changes. New or substantially revised subchapters will not appear in italic and dark magenta.
 9. Officers are reminded that Department-issued materials not codified in the Foreign Affairs Manual or its supplemental Foreign Affairs Handbook series generally have no regulatory validity (see 2 FAM 1115.2).

Filing Instructions for Paper Copies

1. Remove and discard old subchapter 7 FAM 1510 (CT:CON-124, 01-19-2006; 7 pages) and replace it with revised subchapter 7 FAM 1510 (7 pages).
2. Remove and discard old subchapter 7 FAM 1520 (CT:CON-124, 01-19-2006; 3 pages) and replace it with revised subchapter 7 FAM 1520 (3 pages).
3. Remove and discard old subchapter 7 FAM 1530 (CT:CON-124, 01-19-2006; 4 pages) and replace it with revised subchapter 7 FAM 1530 (4 pages).
4. Remove and discard old subchapter 7 FAM 1540 (CT:CON-297, 04-24-2009; 5 pages) and replace it with revised subchapter 7 FAM 1540 (5 pages).
5. Remove and discard old subchapter 7 FAM 1550 (CT:CON-124, 01-19-2006; 2 pages) and replace it with revised subchapter 7 FAM 1550 (2 pages).
6. Remove and discard old subchapter 7 FAM 1560 (CT:CON-125, 01-25-2006; 3 pages) and replace it with revised subchapter 7 FAM 1560 (4 pages).

7. After inserting the material in the binder, insert this change transmittal immediately following the CT (formerly TL) checklist, then fill in the entry line for CT:CON-337, and initial.

Distribution Notice

1. The Foreign Affairs Manual and Handbooks (unclassified) official version can be found on the State Department's Intranet site.
2. All posts and offices keeping paper versions of the Foreign Affairs Manual are responsible for maintaining the FAM on a current basis (see 2 FAM 1116.5).
3. Use **KFAM** and **AINF** TAGS on **all** communications on FAM/FAH issues; direct questions concerning issuance, validity, and updating to A/GIS/DIR. Direct questions concerning substance and interpretations to the office indicated at the end of this change transmittal.

(CA/OCS/PRI)